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## Wan! Da Vision! Wan! Wan! Da Vision!

“The universe created a sitcom starring two Avengers?” Yes, this is about “WandaVision”. You’ve come to the right place. And if for some reason you didn’t mean to flip to this virtual page and haven’t seen “WandaVision”, GO WATCH IT NOW (but then return to my article, please and thank you).

Hopefully now you’ve either just binge-watched all of “WandaVision” in one sitting or are continuing your original reading. But just in case, here’s the FINAL SPOILER WARNING FOR “WANDAVISION” AND PRECEDING MARVEL MOVIES!

Hi, and welcome to Westview. Whether you had a “WandaVision” countdown running since pre-COVID (not to point any fingers, but that was me), were hearing songs about ‘Agatha’ all over Tik Tok and needed answers, or simply tuned in for the broadcast, we were all watching “WandaVision”. By the fifth episode, the Disney+ series reached the number one show in the world.

I’m a certified Marvel fan, and have long regarded Wanda Maximoff, the show’s lead, to be the most powerful Avenger, along with Captain Marvel, Thor, and Dr. Strange. I also believe Wanda to be the most underrated Avenger. Despite her mystical, mesmerizing origin story and seemingly endless power, she was never thought of as the star. That was, of course, until she placed herself as the star of her very own show.

That’s right. We started out not watching Marvel’s show, but Wanda’s. As the series progressed, not only was there more for us to learn, but Wanda, herself, was discovering deeper truths. Wanda might have been at peak power, but she was also at her peak level of emotional distress. To act like Wanda for a moment, let’s rewind.

We last left our heroes at the end of “Avengers: Endgame”. Iron Man was gone, our surviving heroes paying tribute to him in an emotional funeral. But what about Vision? In the final battle of “Avengers: Infinity War”, the predecessor to Endgame, Wanda showed her strength, simultaneously destroying an infinity stone and holding back Thanos, who wielded the remaining stones. She succeeded. She killed Vision, her love. She was the hero. Then Thanos undid it. He reversed time, killed Vision again, and snapped away half of humanity. Holding Vision’s corpse in her arms, Wanda was dusted. We next see her in Endgame, brought back for the final battle in the infamous portal scene. It’s hard to remember in the grand scheme of things, but to Wanda, this is mere minutes after watching Vision die twice. She takes on Thanos, powerful, angry, and dangerous. She nearly kills him. Fast-forward a mere nine days after Thanos’s defeat and Iron Man’s death. Wanda now has no home—no body to bury. Only a map from Vision of where they could build a house and grow old. She has undergone immense trauma, and simply can no longer handle reality. So she alters it, whatever the cost.

Cue “WandaVision”. We explore cinema through the decades with sitcom classics, starting in the 50s with “The Dick Van Dyke Show”, and progressing into the 60s with “Bewitched” and some “I Love Lucy”. Episode Three explores the 70s with “The Brady Bunch”. Episode Four brings explanations and a new perspective: S.W.O.R.D.’s. Suffice it to say that while S.H.I.E.L.D. might be ‘gone’, their role is being filled (oh, and breathe if you hate Tyler Hayward). Episode Five strings in the 80s, and with it, sitcoms we know and love, such as “Full House”. Episode Six is the Halloween Spooktacular, providing comic-book accurate wardrobes and prominently modeling “Malcolm in the Middle”. Episode Seven closes out our sitcom-world, Westview turning more and more into the Marvel Universe, with “Modern Family” and even some of “The Office”! While Episodes Eight and Nine are no longer sitcom-style, we’re now captivated by Agatha Harkness, learning that, apart from Wanda, it was Agggggaaathhhhaaa ALLLLL Alonggggggg (you’re welcome for getting this stuck back in your head). She takes us through the trauma of Wanda’s life, and we finally learn that Wanda created Westview all on her own.

The show doesn’t simply explore classic sitcoms—it explores the stages of grief. Episodes One and Two are the deepest into the sitcom life, Wanda in no way showing that she created this reality. She is in denial. Episode Three and in the final minutes of Four, we see her throw Monica out of Westview (literally). This is her anger. In Episodes Five and Six, we see her walking out of Westview to talk to S.W.O.R.D and talk to “Fietro” about why this reality

is not all that cruel. She is bargaining. We then see the most obvious stage: Wanda is depressed. She can no longer maintain Westview; her world is (again, quite literally) crashing around her. By the show's finale, she has reached the final stage: acceptance.

However, this is the simplest view of the show. There are still so many layers to Wanda and her arc. For some time, she wasn't the protagonist in her own show. She was somehow also the villain. What I love about Marvel and what makes "WandaVision" so thrilling is its complexity. We're all rooting for Wanda, but in truth, she's dangerous. She has a capacity for goodness, but a threat of destruction. She's using chaos magic... and that makes her the Scarlet Witch.

The greatest gain from "WandaVision" is Wanda Maximoff's transformation, with the births of the first mutants (Tommy/Speed and Billy/Wiccan), as well as Monica gaining her powers, close behind. Wanda's words are just as powerful as her magic: "I don't need you to tell me who I am." She is now THE Scarlet Witch. In the post-credits scene (if you didn't watch post-credits, GO WATCH NOW... then continue reading, please and thank you), we see her reading the Darkhold, teaching herself the most powerful of dark magic. She could prove to be the most powerful Avenger or most dangerous villain yet. Phase Four—the new era of Marvel—started strong, and "WandaVision" opened many doors. Speaking about Wanda, "WandaVision" director, Matt Shakman, explained, "There's a lot more to her story to be told, so this is only one part of a very complicated and very rich life." Wanda's storyline is confirmed to continue in "Dr. Strange: The Multiverse of Madness", scheduled for release on May 6, 2022. Director Scott Derrickson has stated that it will be Marvel's first-ever horror movie, and with the glimpses of darkness we got in "WandaVision", I know there is much in store.

With the show leading into "Spider-Man: No Way Home" and the multiverse open, the possibilities for Phase Four are endless. It's safe to say that, for all of you new and old fans who loved "WandaVision", Marvel isn't done. While I was head over heels for "WandaVision", the shows kept coming, and I kept getting hooked; "WandaVision" was followed by "The Falcon and the Winter Soldier", "Loki", "What if...?", and now "Hawkeye" (CURRENTLY STREAMING ON DISNEY+ AHHHHH!). This has been a hard year for all of us, and millions around the world. There have been times where we've felt trapped in a hex or wanted to rewrite our situation. Marvel allows us to enjoy a world of hope and complexity and remind ourselves: "What is grief if not love persevering?" Also, we got lots of catchy theme songs.